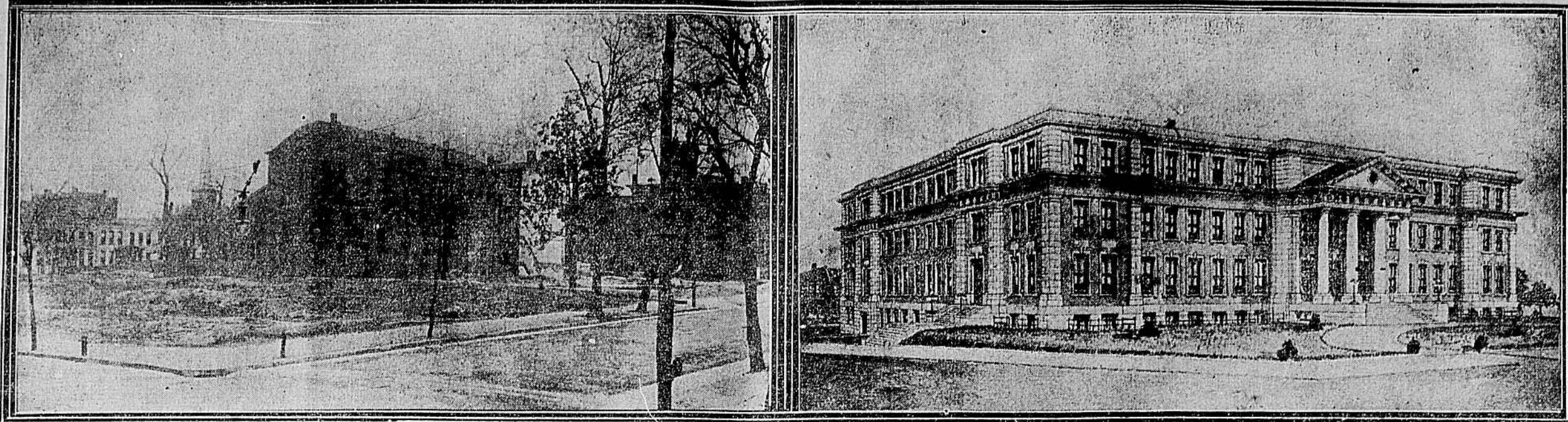


PUPILS WILL BREAK GROUND THIS MORNING FOR GREAT NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING OF RICHMOND



Site of New Building When Ground Will be Broken To-day. The Old Building Appears in the Distance on the Right.

PRESIDENT, UNABLE TO ATTEND, SENDS LETTER

Address From Mr. Roosevelt Will Be Read at Charities Convention, Which Will Later Attend Reception at the White House.

THE executive committee of the National Conference of Charities and Correction held its final meetings at Murphy's Hotel on Saturday morning and afternoon and completed arrangements for the twenty-fifth annual convention, to be held in Richmond beginning on Wednesday, May 6th, and continuing through a week.

Mr. Thomas M. Mulry, president and Mr. Alexander Johnson, secretary of the society, expressed much gratification over the work already done by the local committee. "In fact," said Mr. Johnson, "we are amazed at the energy and push of your business men. Everything possible has been done by them, and conditions point to a most successful convention."

Trip to Westover.
Mr. R. S. Tuck, secretary of the local committee, who was present at the meetings on Saturday, announced great activity on the part of the members here. The committee on pamphlets, headed by Mr. Johnson, is preparing two illustrated pamphlets descriptive of Richmond and surroundings, giving points of interest, explaining the means of reaching them, and advertising the city generally. These pamphlets will be printed and distributed all over the United States.

The committee on entertainment is providing in every way possible for the pleasure of the visitors. Besides the large reception to be given by Mrs. Claude A. Swanson at the Executive Mansion, arrangements have been made for an excursion on Saturday, May 9th, to Westover, where lunch will be served, the whole party returning in time for the afternoon session.

Headquarters at Capitol.
No definite plans have been made up to this time in regard to a place for holding the sessions, but the headquarters will be in the State Capitol, and each of the standing committees will have a room there for the consideration of business.

The convention proper will sit in one of the churches in easy executive sessions. All general sessions will be held in the evening, the mornings being given over to committee meetings, conferences and other similar matters.

President Invited.
An invitation to deliver the opening address was extended to President Roosevelt through Mr. Mulry, but was declined.

The President explained that it would be absolutely impossible for him to be in Richmond at that time. However, he will write a letter expressing his views on the careers of the executive and this will be read before the convention. Mr. Roosevelt showed his appreciation of the honor by extending to the conference an invitation to a reception at the White House immediately upon the conclusion of the sessions in Richmond. The executive committee accepted on the part of the conference, and the date fixed for the reception is Thursday, May 14th.

Governor to Speak.
At the opening session Governor Swanson will be the principal speaker, and will deliver the address of welcome. He will be followed by President Mulry, who will deliver the annual presidential address.

Mr. Mulry, who is also president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will respond to the address of welcome for that society, and the president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, and the National Conference on Trust and Backward Children, will also reply to the welcoming address. The last named society will hold its convention at Hampton during the same period.

Although no one has been selected to deliver the annual conference sermon, the choice lies between the Rev. Mr. Gifford, noted Baptist clergyman of Buffalo, N. Y., and Rabbi Emil Hirsch, a prominent Jewish rabbi of Chicago.

Distinguished Visitors.
The matter of selecting delegates to fill the local pupils on Sunday morning of the conference has been left in the hands of the Richmond committee. Among the members of the executive committee in attendance on Saturday were Thomas M. Mulry, of New York; Alexander Johnson, general secretary, Indiana; J. M. Glenn, New York; Thomas D. Osborn, Louisville, Ky.; Murray Williams, New York City; and W. F. Drewry, Petersburg. Mr. H. Wirt Steele, chairman of the committee on press and publicity, and Mrs. John M. Glenn, chairman of the committee on needy families, were also present.

What Committees Are Doing.
The chairman of the various committees of the conference have prepared information about the program, which is now being circulated. Many of the files of addresses as now given are tentative, but all the speakers announced have definitely agreed to

come. Complete announcements will appear in a bulletin which will be issued later by the conference. No schedule of the time of meetings have yet been prepared.

Mr. Rutherford H. Platt, chairman of the committee on State supervision, plans for the general session of his committee three brief addresses, one by Amos W. Butler, president of the thirty-fourth conference, on "Results of the Work of a State Board"; one by Mrs. Kate Walter Barrett, of Alexandria, on "The Value and Need of State Supervision for Both Public and Private Charities"; and one by Miss Kate Barnard, the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of Oklahoma, on "Shaping the Destinies of a New State."

The committee on the insane epileptic, has chosen "Hereditary" for its general subject, and Dr. J. T. Searcy, chairman, has announced the following topics for discussion: "Definition and Explanation of Heredity"; "Importance of the Subject"; "Hereditary of Mental Deficiency and Defectiveness"; "Prevention of Lateral Degeneration"; "Improvement of Lines of Descent."

Convicts and Public Roads.
The committee on criminals, their punishment and reformation, is that it will wish to hold several meetings, and that at one of them the very interesting subject in the employment of convicts in road-making, now being successfully made in Virginia, will be introduced by a Virginia member, and will be thoroughly discussed.

Dr. Walker Lindsey, chairman of the public health committee, announces the reading of the important papers and the delivery of many addresses. One of the papers will be by Dr. H. W. Wiley, of the United States Bureau of Chemistry, on "The Importance of Food"; the other will be by the Rev. Beverly Warner, of Trinity Church, New Orleans, on "The Negro's Outlook for Health." Thus far two sectional meetings have been planned, one on "Tuberculosis," led by Dr. Charles R. Grandy, of Norfolk, Va., and another on "The Housing Question," in which Miss Harriet Fulmer, of the Chicago Visiting Nurses' Association, and others will take part. Another topic announced by this committee, which may possibly be considered at a third sectional meeting is "The Social Work Conducted at the Massachusetts General Hospital," introduced by Mr. James Minnick, of Providence, R. I.

The Statistics and Press Committees will each hold a general session at the close of section meetings on Friday and Monday mornings, respectively. Two speakers are announced, Miss Kate H. Cloghlin, of the New York Tenement House Commission, will present "The Use and Abuse of Statistics in Social Work," and Mrs. F. L. Hoffman will speak on "Old Age Pensions." Other topics and speakers will be announced later.

Interesting Subjects.
The Committee on Defectives will probably hold one sectional meeting besides the general sessions. Miss M. Grundy, chairman, has announced the following subjects: "Records of the State in Regard to the Feeble-minded"; "The Educational Problem"; and "The Problem of Custodian Care." Members of the committee have been invited to spend one afternoon at the Lorretta Training School, a private institution for the feeble-minded, a few miles from Richmond.

Mrs. John M. Glenn, chairman of the Committee on Needy Families, announced four meetings for her committee. The general subject of the committee's report will be "The Trained Workers in the Treatment of Needy Families," and the topics of the four sectional meetings will be "Care Work," "Methods of Treatment," "Social Service in Isolated Mountain Communities," and "Rural Development in the Mountain Communities." The committee is in correspondence with a number of people who are well qualified to present these topics, but arrangements are not yet so far completed as to allow the announcement of names.

Miss Frances G. Curtis is chairman, will hold its general meeting on Sunday evening, and there will be at least five sectional meetings. Topics so far planned are: "Educational Aspect of All Work for Children," by President Mulry; "The University of Virginia," and others; "Juvenile Courts and Probation," by Judge Mack, of Chicago; and others; "Child Labor and Compulsory Education," by E. G. Murphy, of Montgomery, Ala.; and others; Mr. Thomas M. Osborn, of New York, and Miss Jane Adams, of Chicago, will deliver an address on "The Large Uses of the Public Schools."



No invitations have been issued to the ceremonies in connection with the breaking of ground for the new High School Building this morning. It has been arranged that this occasion shall be entirely informal, as the laying of the corner-stone of the building next autumn is to be formally observed. The public, however, will be welcomed, and an interesting program of exercises will be rendered. The invocation will be followed by addresses from Superintendent William F. Fox and Mr. Charles Hutzler, chairman of the City School Board.

Then during the singing of "America" by the school chorus the ground will be broken by the following pupils, elected by their classmates to represent various sections in the school: Misses Pauline Pearce, Mary Andrews, Harriet Buchanan, Virginia Snyder, Mollie Earnest, Jeannette Stearnes, Eleanor Swann, Dora Horner, Marion Lea, Edgar Kaufman, Brooke Anderson, James Black, Ernest Gorman, Archie Coyle, Oliver Cross, Wirt Hix, Willie Wilshire, Willie Knowles, John Ware, Abner Hill, Leon Hayward and Garland Clay. A picture of these children, showing Principal Harwood in the center, was taken especially for The Times-Dispatch on Saturday, and appears immediately above. The exercises will close with the benediction.

ABSENT-MINDED, GOT IN TROUBLE

Young Man Picked Up Suit Case and Walked from Store. Under Arrest.

A young white man, giving his name as William Johnson and claiming to be an entire stranger in Richmond, was locked up on Saturday at the Second Police Station under rather suspicious circumstances, from which he says he will be able entirely to clear himself. Johnson walked into the store of Rountree and Bro. on Saturday afternoon and in an absent-minded and preoccupied manner walked out with a suit case. On reaching the corner of Seventh and Broad Streets he set the case down to await a car and suddenly realized that the natty new bag was not his. Turning back towards the store he was met by an irate clerk, who talked of shop lifting and suggested that Johnson was about to make off with the case.

Johnson has furnished to the police the addresses of several persons in other cities, who, he says, will give him a good character.

STEVENS DID NOT SEE COMMISSION

Report That He Tried to Ward Off Investigation Denied by Commissioner Lane.

While Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane was investigating the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway rebate charges in this city, many rumors were circulated about certain alleged facts which would be forthcoming in time. The story which gained most persistent circulation was that in October last officers of the company went to Washington and urged the commission to drop the case, on the assurance that the allegations against the freight department were wholly untrue. Mr. Henry T. Wickham, general counsel of the railroad, declined to dignify these stories by a formal denial.

To the Washington correspondent of The Times-Dispatch, Commissioner Lane declares that President Stevens, Vice-President Axtell and Mr. Wickham had never asked the commission to call off the inquiry.

"The story is imaginary entirely," he said.

Mr. Lane's denial bears out the statement of the railway officials, and shows that there was absolutely no foundation for the damaging reports which were unjust to President Stevens and his associates.

SEABOARD WILL PAY TO-MORROW

Announcement Relieves Some Anxiety Felt in Banking Circles in Richmond.

Receivers of the Seaboard Air Line Railway announced on Saturday that the coupons on the various bonds of the company, which were due on January 1st, will be payable in the offices of the Continental Trust Company in Baltimore and the New York Trust Company of New York, on and after to-morrow, with interest from January 1st, to March 23d. The amount of coupons and interest, it is understood, aggregates more than \$600,000.

Considerable anxiety was felt, especially in banking circles here, when the coupons were not paid, when they fell due. Holders of the following bonds may collect their interest on and after to-morrow: Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds; Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds; Georgia, Carolina and Northern Railroad, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds; Florida West Shore Railroad, first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds; Carolina Central Railroad, first consolidated mortgage 4 per cent. bonds; Georgia and Alabama Railroad, first consolidated mortgage 5 per cent. bonds; Florida Central and Peninsula Railroad, first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds; Florida Central and Peninsula Railroad, first consolidated mortgage 5 per cent. bonds.

Evolution of the Steam Engine.
Mr. J. A. Johnson, junior member of the American Society of Evolution of the Steam Engine, in the auditorium of the Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening at 8:30 o'clock, Messrs. Henry S. Hutzler, A. J. Chevington and E. H. Ferguson constitute the committee in charge.

Draws Large Audience.
Large and enthusiastic audiences greeted Mrs. Annie Webb Curtis at both of her addresses yesterday. The first was made at 3:30 o'clock in the Union Station Methodist Church. Her subject was "What Is That in Thine Hand?" Excellent music was rendered by the choir. At 8 o'clock she spoke before a large audience in the Clay Street Methodist Church, on "Moloch."

Everywhere Mrs. Curtis has charmed her hearers, who have crowded the churches. Efforts are being made to induce her to remain longer in Richmond. To-night she will speak in the Barton Heights Baptist Church.

MAN AND GIRLS HIT BY FAST TRAIN ON BRIDGE

Children Hurlled Down Embankment, But Not Seriously Hurt, While Father of One Was Badly Injured. Tot Sat Down and Escaped.

WHILE watching a long string of Chesapeake and Ohio freight cars rolling into Richmond on the tracks far below, Mr. G. H. Plageman, of No. 1015 West Broad Street, his nine-year-old daughter Catherine, and Rosa Wingler also nine years of age, of No. 1020 West Marshall Street, were struck by an Atlantic Coast Line train coming across the Belt Line Bridge yesterday afternoon and hurled down an embankment, falling thirty feet sheer to the bottom.

Nearly 100 people, many of whom themselves narrowly escaped being hit by the fast-moving train, witnessed the accident with horrified eyes, and others standing below saw the figures hurtling through the air and watched the Wingler child roll down a hill fifty feet high. Catherine Plageman fell thirty feet to a sort of ledge, where she managed to grasp a bush, which probably saved her life. Mr. Plageman was knocked only a few feet from the track, but was badly injured. Another little girl, Mary Plageman, six years of age, had presence of mind to sit down on the trestle while the train passed, and she escaped unhurt.

Struck by Train.
Everybody on or near the bridge appeared to be watching the Chesapeake and Ohio car, and did not observe the Atlantic Coast Line train until it was almost upon them. Mr. Plageman turned to see the three children in danger, and gathering up two attempted to get out of the way. The train was too close, however, and he was hurled full across the track the engine struck him in the left arm and hip, throwing him aside a few feet. He was hurled against the two girls and they were pitched down the embankment by the sudden impact.

The crowd was standing a few yards from the Richmond side of the bridge where the embankment ran down almost sheer thirty feet, and, beyond a ledge, falls another twenty feet. Catherine caught a bush, where she hung on bravely until three men formed a human chain and dragged her back to safety.

She was badly bruised about the hands, face and body, and complained of injury to her back. Rosa was almost unhurt, although she fell about fifty feet. She was out playing as usual last night.

Bystanders immediately rushed to the aid of the three. The train stopped at the end of the bridge and sent back the crew. The injured were picked up, and Mr. Rand, of Ellerson, who was automobile with a party of ladies, agreed to carry them home in his machine.

The ladies were left at the bridge until he took Mr. Plageman and the girls to Richmond, where medical assistance was procured. Mr. Plageman, the most seriously injured, was put to bed and a sedative was given to him. The full extent of his injuries is not yet known.

Is Favorite Walk.
The Belt Line Bridge is a favorite walk for many people, and is visited by hundreds every Sunday afternoon, though all foot traffic is prohibited by the railroad company. A sign was placed at the end of the bridge warning persons to keep off, but the warning is continuously disregarded. The walkway is only a narrow plank, unrailed, except at certain intervals. Catherine Plageman said the bridge was "without a handle." People walking on the bridge do so at their own risk.

RURAL CARRIERS MEET
Discuss Work and Hear Addresses By Postmaster and Others.

A meeting of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association for the Third Congressional District, was held on Saturday night in Henric County Courthouse. The chief object of the session was to awaken interest in the association before the meeting of the general convention, which will be held later.

The carriers were addressed by Postmaster Royal E. Cabell and Mr. Franklin Stearnes, of Richmond. Resolutions were adopted protesting against the practice of some of the newspapers of labeling the papers on the back so that they have to be refolded by the carrier before being placed in the box.

MRS. BRANCH DIES AT ADVANCED AGE
Had Suffered Brief Illness of Pneumonia—Widow of Thomas Branch.

Mrs. Anne Adams Branch, widow of Thomas Branch, Esq., died last night at 11 o'clock at her residence, No. 300 West Franklin Street, in the eighty-first year of her age, after a brief illness of pneumonia. Only since Thursday was her condition considered dangerous.

Mrs. Branch was Miss Wheelerwright, was born in Westmoreland county, Va., and was the second wife of Mr. Thomas Branch, then of Petersburg, Company, taking up his residence here in 1887, a resident of Richmond. In the discharge of the difficult duties as mistress of her husband's household and family of children, many of whom were grown at the time of her marriage, she brought to bear the power of a cultivated mind, sincere piety and great tact. She was a model of the Virginia matron of the old school. She leaves three children—Mr. Carter W. Branch, Mrs. Barton H. Grundy and Miss Lena Branch.

MORRIS BROOKS PASSES AWAY
Man Dies After Long Illness.

After a long illness, Mr. Morris O. Brooks, prominently known in business and social circles of the city, died at his home, No. 512 East Grace Street, yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Born in Cincinnati in 1862, Mr. Brooks was the son of Mr. Frederick F. Brooks, of that city. Eight years ago he became general manager of the Chesapeake and Ohio Coal and Coke Company, taking up his residence here. Previous to that time he had been engaged in various other lines of business, in all of which he met with success, which marked his work in Richmond. He held positions of trust in Baltimore, Duluth, Louisville and Charleston, W. Va. In each of which places he won many warm friends.

Burial in Cincinnati.
Mr. Brooks was a member of the Westmoreland Club, and had been from time to time associated with the most prominent social and musical organizations in the city. Being quite a musician himself, he was a member of the Cincinnati Club for some time acted as its president.

He was never married. His nearest relative is his sister, Mrs. L. R. Burlingham, who lived with him here. The funeral will be held this afternoon at 12:30 o'clock from his residence. The burial will be in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. The body will be accompanied to Cincinnati by Mrs. Burlingham.

SMASHED SILK HATS
Snowball Brigade Chased Two Sporting

While strolling along West Franklin Street yesterday afternoon two negroes, who were sporting high hats and frock coats, had to reckon with an unexpected enemy. A crowd of small boys spied them and immediately got busy. Running into private yards they dashed up a score of snowballs and then proceeded to make the negroes burn the wind. Just as the men turned down Adams Street the storm broke. One chunk caught a silk hat, another crashed in the top before it could be picked up. Without showing resentment, the objects of the attack began to increase their speed, while the promiscuous band halted to enjoy the sport.

YOUNG MAN DISAPPEARS
Parents in England Ask Police of Richmond to Search for A. G. Woodward.

Parents of Arthur Gilbert Woodward, of Margate, England, are alarmed at his long-continued absence, and have written to the Richmond Police Department to aid them in a search for the young man.

Woodward boarded formerly with Mrs. H. C. Toler, No. 1809 Chabonne Street, this city. On January 27th his parents in England received a letter from him, and afterwards they learned through Mrs. Toler that he had been sent to the City Hospital here to be treated for typhoid fever. Nothing has been heard from him since. He was dismissed from the hospital on February 29th.

Mr. Harold Woodward, father of the missing man, would be glad to receive any information concerning him. His home is at Nos. 40, 46 and 51 Marine Terrace, Margate, England.

COMMISSION HAS COMPLETED WORK
Prospects Bright for Extension of Monument Avenue, Chairman Declares.

Commissioners appointed by the Hastings Court to determine the value of property abated by the city in straightening and extending Monument Avenue to the corporate limits at Rosemeath Road completed their labors on Saturday and signed their report, which will be presented to Judge Witt today.

Chairman L. Z. Morris said last night that he did not think it would be proper to give the figure in advance of their submission to the court, but stated that the commission has satisfactorily completed the work assigned to it, and that the prospects for the extension of the avenue are good.

Police Break Up TWO SPEAKEASIES
Officers Wiley and McMullen Go Forth and Return With Three Alleged Violators of Law.

Anna Watkins and Martha Woods, colored dames, have probably sold much Sunday whiskey in their time, but they will dispense the ardent fluid no more for many days to come if Hoveed Policemen Wiley and McMullen can prove the charges they have lodged against the two women, who were locked up yesterday for illicit selling. Most of their stock was confiscated by the two officers. It is a varied assortment, consisting mainly of corn and rye and cheap beer, with a little peach brandy on the side. A number of glasses, built for 5 cent shorts, were also secured.

Following up their good fortune, the same two officers went forth again and got Abraham Morris, also colored, on the same charge.

St. Vincent De Paul.
Local members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held a meeting at Murphy's Hotel yesterday afternoon and discussed plans for the entertainment of the national body, which meets here in May. President Mulry and other officers heard gratifying reports of the progress made. A committee was appointed to call on Governor Swanson and Mayor McCarthy to-day to invite them to address a public meeting at the Bijou Theatre on May 2d.

A local Society of St. Vincent de Paul was organized at St. Peter's Church last Sunday, and now has a membership of 42. Mr. Andrew J. Cavanaugh is president, Mr. Felix Keenan vice-president, and Mr. C. T. Murphy secretary.

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